

Appl. No. : 10/694,198
Filed : October 27, 2003

REMARKS

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences reversed all rejections against Claim 2-4, 6, 7, and 13-15. However, one of the two reasons for rejecting Claim 1 was upheld and the rejection of dependent Claims 5, 8, and 9 was also upheld. Applicant has been given a one month time period to present the dependent claims in independent form to avoid abandonment of the application.

In response Applicant has re-written the dependent claims in independent form as set forth below.

Original Dependent Claim	New Independent Claim
2	16
3	17
4	18
7	19
13	20
14	21
15	22

Further, Claims 5, 6, 8, and 9 have been amended to revise their claim dependencies in view of the cancelation of Claims 1 and 3. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendments and consideration of the following remarks.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication includes alterations to the claims, the Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences decision and the amendments submitted herewith, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.


The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to the Office Communication and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 12/22/2011

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